Recipes for Home Repair by Alvin Ubell & Sam Bittman

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Troubleshooting Toilet: Flush Tank Problems

Like any other mechanism with a number of moving parts, the flush

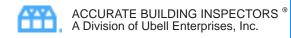
tank is subject to a variety of disorders. Most of the common maladies, however, are simple to correct. And part of the simplicity of the work is due to the easy accessibility of the malfunctioning parts. That is one of the beauties of the flush tank - all one must do to diagnose a problem is to raise the tank cover and look inside.

But because "looking" does not always constitute "seeing" - particularly for the inexperienced eye - we have included a Diagnostic Chart listing the most common flush tank disorders. Here's how to read it: first establish what seems to be going wrong with your own flush tank; then proceed to the "symptom" column of the chart and match your flush tank's disorder symptoms with the ones which most resemble them in the chart. Now read across to the "diagnosis" column, and, finally, to the "cure". In most instances, we have provided a detailed recipe - in the pages which follow the chart - for the speedy repair of the disorder.

FLUSH TANK DIAGNOSTIC CHART

Symptom	Diagnosis	Recipe Cure
Water runs and will not stop	Overflows through overflow	a. Bend float rod down slightly.
	tube.	See Recipe 79.
		b. Replace float if it no longer
		floats.
	Water runs under stopper	Realign stopper ball guide
	ball.	bracket and lift rod.
		b. Replace ball.
		c. Clean ball seat with
		sandpaper.
		d. Install new flapper stop ball.
	Inlet valve body leaks.	 Replace plunger washer.
		 b. Replace ball-cock washer.
		c. Replace ball-cock.
		d. Reset action rod.
		e. Regrind valve seat.
	4. Flush handle stuck.	a. Lubricate all connecting
		points.
		b. Loosen flush handle nut.
		c. Reset flush handle nut.
Does not flush	No water in tank	Open shutoff valve under tank.
	Flush handle loose.	a. Reconnect trip arm
		lever.
		 b. Reconnect upper lift wire.
		c. Reconnect lower lift wire.
		d. Reconnect handle
		connection.

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CON'T FLUSH TANK DIAGNOSTIC CHART

Symptom	Diagnosis	Recipe Cure
Water flushes but does not	Water runs under ball stop.	a. Realign stopper ball
stop.		guide.
		b. Clean ball seat with fine
		sandpaper or steel wool.
Does not flush enough water.	Tank does not fill to enough	Bend float rod up slightly. See
	water proper level.	Recipe 79.
Not enough water in bowl after	Refill tube not set into	Reset refill tube into
flush.	overflow pipe. OR	overflow pipe.
	Refill tube missing or	Replace refill tube.
	broken.	
Tank leaks under cover.	Refill tube leaks.	Repair or replace refill tube.
		2. Replace all washers in ball-
		cock mechanism.
Tank leaks at flush handle.	Flush handle nut loose. OR	Tighten flush handle nut.
	2. Flush handle washer is	Replace flush handle
	worn.	washer.
Water leaks under tank.	Shank locknut loose. OR	Tighten shank locknut.
	2. Shank washer worn. OR	Replace shank washer.
	3. Ball seat locknut loose. OR	Tighten ball seat locknut.
	4. Ball seat tank washer worn.	Replace ball seat tank
		washer.
Tank sweats	Cold water in tank.	1. Insulate inside of tank with
		1/2 inch sheet styrofoam. See
		Recipe 82.

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